

Samuel's Availability (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

Proposition: Every one of us can learn valuable lessons on being available to God and for God by following the three commands drawn from the life of Samuel.

I. Pattern the Scene of Samuel's Availability

- A. A Scene of Preparation (Ch. 1&2)
- B. A Scene of Participation (Ch. 2:18; 3:1,3,15)
- C. A Scene of Perception (Vs. 4-10)

II. Perceive the Strain of Samuel's Availability (Vs. 11-18)

- A. Perceive the Dread that Samuel Faced (Vs. 11a)
- B. Perceive the Difficulty that Samuel Felt (Vs. 11b-17)
- C. Perceive the Duty that Samuel Found (Vs. 18)

III. Prove the Success of Samuel's Availability (Vs. 19-21)

- A. Success in His Inquiries (Vs. 19c)
- B. Success in His Establishment (Vs. 20)
- C. Success in His Endeavors (Vs. 19a-b, 21)

Samuel's Availability (1 Samuel 3:1-10)

Little Milly had gone to bed, and her father was downstairs reading the paper or maybe the thunderstorm came up, with lightning and fierce noises. Milly shouted down to her father: "Daddy, I'm scared."

"Come up and help me" Milly's father expressed in the paper should back

"Don't worry, Milly, you'll be all right. You know God loves you." "I know God loves me," cried Milly but I need something with skin on." It not long after that children

like Milly realize that God has come in the person of Jesus Christ and that he is one that will save preserve their lives. I believe that spiritual understanding can come at a fairly early age. Along with that understanding comes comes the responsibility to respond to that understanding and to make their young lives available for God's use.

Eccl 12:1, Ps 34:11, Luke 18:16, Jacob in his old age made himself available

I Pattern the Scene of Samuel's Avail

Usually at every baby dedication at my former church, my pastor would use the story of baby Samuel. I would

always joke, you know she left him at the church

A. A Scene of Preparation - The very name Samuel means "asked of God". Samuel was the answer from God to his mother's prayer. She was a godly devout woman of faith. Early in Samuel's life he was given quite literally to God, to serve and work in the temple. Eli the priest became his tutor or substitute father. Although he was

B. A Scene of Participation - Samuel as a child had opportunities of participation in the service of God's house. He had opportunity to wear the linen ephod which the priest wore as the interceder before God on behalf of the people. Menial tasks such as lighting the lamps, and opening the door of tabernacle. He participates in the

C. A Scene of Perception - In verse one we see that a revelation from God was a scarce thing. Open vision = No prophet of God to speak forth his words. These were dark days. Yet as the child Samuel served the Lord in what he knew to do, God spoke to him personally. He heard a voice and said here am I. Notice he thought the voice of God was Eli the priest.

II. Perceive the Strain of Samuel's Child
Samuel learned very early that it was not easy to serve God. I was thinking of my first message. How painful

- 1) Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh... Psalms 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Luke 18:16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.
- 2) ...himself available to God. Now Samuel, many believe to be as young as twelve years old is presenting himself available for God's use. For all of us there are rich applications on being available for God's use in these verses. Every one of us can learn valuable lessons on being available to God and for God by following the three commands drawn from the life of Samuel.
- 3) ...although he was not much of a father to his own sons Hophni and Phinehas, yet he was a good tutor to Samuel. What of the scene of your child's preparation. Is it a scene of prayer and faithfulness, a scene of true devotion to God. Is it a scene of a balance of both the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. Spurgeon said in illustration:...when the showers are falling, that you, who try to keep a few pots of flowers set them out to get the benefit of the rain; and you not only put out the large plants, but you put out the little ones too, so that the precious drops may fall on them. Let your little children, like the little pots of flowers, be put under the gracious showers of the sanctuary, and who knows how largely God may bless them? Are you making preparation to hear from God.
- 4) ...he participated in the things that he could. Prayer, the light of our witness, attendance upon the house of God for worship are things that all of us should participate. If we don't we may not be in a place to hear God speak specifically in to our lives.
- 5) ...the priest, the servant of God. I'm not much of a pastor, but I do strive to hear from God and relate to you what he would want you to know. Are you listening! He may not have completely understood, but to the best of his ability he was trying to respond. Many of you have heard God clearly and refuse to heed his voice. When God called to Samuel immediately responded. God has called to you time and time again and yet you are sluggish to respond if at all. Children and Parents young people and seniors, we live in a day where men and women given wholly to serve God are scarce. Listen for God's voice!

1) ...and walk to that pulpit. It was not easy. Samuel finds this out.

2) ...so lightly and glibly. Don't take lightly the word and commands of God!

3) ...It may mean that you have to proclaim that which may not be palatable to people close to you. It may mean that you have to denounce the sin of those that are the closest to you. It may mean that you have to choose God over the dearest of relationship. I'll not kid you. You will have to make a choice.

4) ...delay the message, or delete the message, our Job is to deliver the message and let them take it or leave it!" We as the servants of God, sent out on His task is to do just that. To deliver the message with as much love and compassion as we can muster but deliver it just the same.

difficult is was to rise off that pew and walk to
A. Perceive the Dread that Samuel Faced
"And the Lord said to Samuel..." I just
want to touch on this but there is a
sense of dreadful fear here in these words.

Almighty God is speaking, and speaks
to you. The creator of the heavens, the pow-
erful God, we live in such a day where
the Bible and the truth of God is taken so lightly.

B. Perceive the Difficulty that Samuel Felt
Eli had become as a father to Samuel.
More than likely he had grown to love
and respect Eli. And Samuel's first mes-
sage is that which declares the judgment
of God upon his foster father. Listen it
is wonderful to serve God but that does
not mean it is easy to serve God. It may mean

C. Perceive the Duty that Samuel Found
Eli came asking to know what God had
said to him, demanding it of Samuel.

Samuel didn't soften it to appease
Eli. He didn't harden it to abuse Eli.
He told him word for word what God said.
I remember Dr. Jerry Vines saying our job is
not to dilute the message or delay the

III. Prove the Success of Samuel's Obedience
It may well be difficult to serve
God, yes, more than likely it will
but at the same time God does hear

those that named Him, Note that in Samuel's

A. Success in His Inquiries - I used to read this text as meaning when God spoke, Samuel didn't let any of his words fall to the ground. But after careful examination, it is saying God let none of the words of Samuel fall to the ground. Because Samuel didn't let the words of God fall to the ground, God did not let Samuel's

B. Success in His Establishment - From Samuel's first moments of availability to God listening to his voice in the darkness of night, God grew this available young man till all over the nation that had suffered years w/o a prophet, it was said, "There is a man w/ the words of God. There is a man that can get a hold of God!" Man Woman Boy + Girl

C. Success in His Endeavors - Samuel was a man greatly used of God. Samuel was a prophet. He was a priest. He was a judge. God used Samuel as a great leader of his people, to the great King David. He was used in a great turning of the disreality and then turning to God! It all started w/ words whispered in the

IV. Close - God was dealing with my heart when I was a young child, and I refused. Many wasted years + painful scars later I submitted to that call. Don't let that be you

- 1) ...Samuel's words fall to the ground. The petitions Samuel made to God and the prophecies he made to man did not fall upon deaf ears. Dear child of God, if we will listen and heed the call of God and not let those words fall upon deaf ears, we will be a people that can get a hold of God in prayer and a people that get a hold of the hearts of men, women, boys, and girls with our proclamation. Bro. Junior Bryson was a country preacher from this area for many years. I asked someone in his church what to they remember most about Bro. Junior. They responded, "He was a man that could get a hold of God. If there was anyone I wanted praying for me it was Bro. Junior. Let that be said of us!

- 2) ...boy or girl, if you will but listen and respond to God in those first steps of obedience, God will honor that and manifest his work in you before an onlooking world!

- 3) ...in the darkness, "...Speak; for thy servant heareth."